

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1-2, 9, 12, 14-15, 19-22, 27, 29, 31, 33-34 as follows and cancel claims 28 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a computerized universal game controller operable to control a plurality of computerized wagering games, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games;

a video display and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

- a) computerized wagering game status information and
- b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller;

an interface assembly communicatively coupled to the communication port, the interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices having interface formats supported by the interface assembly and a the universal game controller ~~that~~ can control gaming systems via an I/O interface;

an I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal game controller, the I/O interface adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communication port;

the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through the I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless events based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port without the universal controller being programmed with specific identification of specific pin connections;

at least one connector on the interface assembly capable of being connected to gaming peripherals so that the ~~computerized gaming~~ universal game controller can communicate with the gaming peripherals.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein the universal game controller is an IBM PC-compatible computer system.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computerized gaming apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication port is selected from the group consisting of a PC serial port, PC parallel port, and a USB port and the at least some signals are converted by converting signals from one voltage level to another, inverting signals, multiplexing or decoding signals, or converting signals between formats supported by the various interface assemblies and the universal computerized game controller.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices are selected from the group consisting of buttons, slot machine arms, touch screen coordinates and joy sticks and the universal controller performs functions necessary to convert signals between formats supported by various interface assemblies selected from the group consisting of encoding signals, converting signals from one voltage level to another, invert signals, multiplex or decode signals and the universal computerized game controller.

5. (ORIGINAL) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a credit management device.

6. (ORIGINAL) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 5 wherein the credit management device is selected from the group consisting of coin acceptors, coin recognition systems, currency acceptors, currency recognition systems, credit card readers, and smart card readers.

7. (ORIGINAL) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a security device.

8. (ORIGINAL) The computerized wagering game apparatus of claim 7 wherein at least one of the security devices is selected from the group consisting of tilt switches, device integrity switches, and spurious electrical discharge detectors.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a wiring harness for associating a computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus and at least some interface devices on the apparatus, the peripherals having been connected to the original computerized game controller through a wiring harness that is not removed when the original special-purpose computerized game controller is removed;

b) inserting a universal ~~computerized~~ game controller operable to control a plurality of video wagering games and/or slot wagering games that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games, the computerized universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless events, and the I/O interface assembly that operatively couples coupling the universal computerized game controller to a plurality of user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the I/O interface assembly comprising an adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the a communication port that is coupled to the and universal game controller, the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communication port, a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b); the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface

assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port; and

c) sending signals from the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller through the I/O interface and harness to communicate between the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller and the at least some user interface devices, communication to the at least some user interface devices performed through the wiring harness that was not removed.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9 wherein after said sending signals, the video and/or slot gaming apparatus enables a video and/or slot display device associated with the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus to provide a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of a) computerized wagering game status information and b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the universal computerized game apparatus is an IBM PC-compatible computer system.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~I/O interface is operatively coupled to a~~ communication port selected from the group consisting of a PC serial port, a PC parallel port, and a USB port and the at least some signals are converted by converting signals from one voltage level to another, inverting signals, multiplexing or decoding signals, or converting signals between formats supported by the various interface assemblies and the universal computerized game controller.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the user interface devices is selected from the group consisting of buttons, slot machine arms, touch screen coordinates and joy sticks.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 9, wherein the I/O interface assembly has digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering, latching signals.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a credit management device, and the credit management device is selected from the group consisting of coin acceptors, coin recognition systems, currency acceptors, currency recognition systems, credit card readers, and smart card readers.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the user interface devices comprises a security device.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the security devices is selected from the group consisting of tilt switches, device integrity switches, and spurious electrical discharge detectors.

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a universal ~~computerized~~ game controller operable to control a plurality of computerized wagering games, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games;

a video and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the universal computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

- a) computerized wagering game status information and
- b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller, the computerized game controller monitoring through an I/O

interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless events;

the I/O interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and
an I/O interface adapter on the I/O interface assembly configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the I/O interface assembly and the universal game controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals;
and the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 1 wherein the ~~computerized~~ universal game (apparatus) controller comprises an embedded mother board.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 9 wherein the universal ~~computerized~~ game controller is an embedded mother board.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A universal video and/or slot wagering gaming controller comprising:

a pin connector for attachment to a video and/or slot wagering gaming apparatus comprising a ~~computerized~~ universal game controller, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event based upon which pins are transmitting signals to the universal game controller;

The universal game controller being connected to a ~~connector~~ to a circuit board;

the circuit board having controls for peripherals in the gaming apparatus which can be executed by ~~a computer~~ the universal game controller;

an I/O interface assembly between said ~~wagering gaming~~ universal game controller and the pin connector, the I/O interface assembly comprising an adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and

the circuit board having a port to connect the controls for peripherals to a ~~computer within the gaming apparatus~~ the universal game controller.

23. (ORIGINAL) The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the peripherals include at least one function selected from the group consisting of button controls, coin acceptors, touch screen coordinates, credit managers, currency acceptors, operating system, security devices, game operating code and a store of images.

24. (ORIGINAL) The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the port is connected to a computer to execute the controls for peripherals.

25. (ORIGINAL) The universal gaming controller of claim 23 wherein the port is connected to a computer to execute the controls for peripherals.

26. (ORIGINAL) The universal gaming controller of claim 22 wherein the gaming apparatus is a video gaming apparatus.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a ~~computerized~~ universal game controller operable to control a computerized wagering game, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware

to control said plurality of games; the controller further including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes, and the computerized game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event;

a video display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the

~~computerized~~ universal game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

- a) computerized wagering game status information and
- b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller and at least some user interface devices on the apparatus, the at least some user interface devices having been connected to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller;

the I/O interface assembly comprising the at least some user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter on the I/O interface assembly configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port and to the at least some user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port and therefore the universal game controller and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and

the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port.

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus, while leaving peripheral devices within the computerized wagering game apparatus;

b) inserting a universal ~~computerized~~ game controller, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event operable to control a video and/or slot wagering game that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and the I/O interface assembly comprising and interface adapter that operatively couples the universal ~~computerized~~ game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, the universal ~~computerized~~ game controller comprising at least a random number generator, the I/O interface adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface assembly and the universal game controller; and

c) sending signals from the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller through the I/O interface assembly and harness to communicate between the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller and operate the user interface devices, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the ~~communication port~~ universal game controller and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals, and the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port.

30. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 29 wherein the peripherals includes at least one peripheral selected from the group consisting of button controls, coin acceptors, touch screen coordinates, credit managers, currency acceptors, operating system, security devices, game operating code and a store of images.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a ~~computerized~~ universal game controller operable to control a plurality of computerized wagering games, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games, the controller including at least a random number generator to randomly determine outcomes and a pay table identifying payouts based upon the occurrence of random events;

a video and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

- a) computerized wagering game status information and
- b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller, the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event;

a interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

the I/O interface assembly comprising and interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal game controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, , the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port.

32. (CANCELLED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized wagering game apparatus, comprising:

a ~~computerized~~ universal game controller operable to control a plurality of computerized wagering games; wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games

a video display and/or slot display device providing a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of

- c) computerized wagering game status information and
- d) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game;

a communication port communicatively coupled to the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller, the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event;

the I/O interface assembly comprising one or more user interface devices; and

an I/O interface adapter on the I/O interface assembly configured to communicatively couple the I/O interface assembly to the communication port and only convert signals, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and a) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the I/O interface assembly and the universal game controller and/or b) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals, and the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for reconfiguring a computerized wagering game apparatus having a harness for associating a

computerized game controller with output devices in the apparatus, the method comprising:

a) removing an original special-purpose computerized game controller used to control a computerized wagering game from the apparatus, the original computerized game controller designed to and capable of working exclusively with a particular computerized wagering game apparatus and at least some interface devices on the apparatus, the peripherals having been connected to the original computerized game controller through a connector;

b) inserting a universal ~~computerized~~ game controller operable to control a plurality of video wagering games and/or slot wagering games that can be played on the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus and an I/O interface adapter on an I/O interface assembly that operatively couples the universal ~~computerized~~ game controller to user interface devices of the wagering game apparatus, wherein the universal game controller comprises sufficient hardware to control said plurality of games, the I/O interface adapter configured to communicatively couple the interface assembly to the communication port and i) convert at least some signals between the interface formats supported by the interface assembly and the universal controller; ii) the I/O interface assembly having digital logic to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of buffering and latching signals; and/or iii) encode signals, convert signals from one voltage level to another, invert signals, multiplex signals or decode signals, and the adapter comprising a multiple pin connection between the I/O interface and the communicate port, the universal game controller monitoring said conditions through the I/O interface assembly based upon which pins of the adapter are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port;

the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller monitoring through an I/O interface assembly conditions of coins in/out, currency in/out, debt/credit, and cashless event, and

c) sending signals from the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller through the I/O interface assembly and harness to communicate between the ~~computerized~~ universal game controller and the at least some user interface devices, communication to the at least some user interface devices performed through the connector.

35. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of claim 34 wherein after said sending signals, the video and/or slot gaming apparatus enables a video and/or slot display device associated with the video and/or slot wagering game apparatus to provide a visual representation of a signal provided by the computerized game controller such that the video and/or slot display device displays at least one visual image selected from the group consisting of a) computerized wagering game status information and b) symbol elements that change with the play of the wagering game.

36. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of claim 34 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.

37. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of claim 35 wherein the I/O interface adapter has digital logic to convert signals between protocols.